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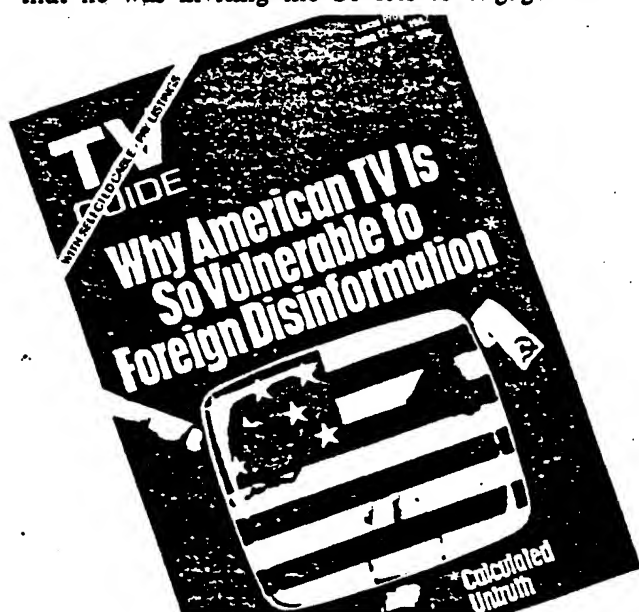
HUMAN EVENTS

19 June 1982

Will Reagan Appear On Soviet Television?

President Reagan's proposal before the British Parliament that he and Leonid Brezhnev, as well as Soviet and American newsmen, appear on each other's television to discuss major events will probably fall on deaf ears in Moscow, observers of the media predict. The reason: Soviet officials and Soviet "journalists" already appear regularly on American television.

In making the proposal, President Reagan said that he was inviting the Soviets to engage in a



"competition of ideas and values" which could be "conducted on a peaceful and reciprocal basis." But the cover story in the new issue of *TV Guide*, "Why American TV is So Vulnerable to Foreign Disinformation," makes it plain that the Soviets are already waging that war. It's doubtful that the Soviets will give us an opportunity to fight back.

The magazine notes that in the spring of 1981, "the Soviets allowed more of their public officials to appear on U.S. television news shows than at any time in recent memory." Many of these interview segments, *TV Guide* says, were picked up and rebroadcast in Western Europe, at a time when the Soviets were trying to improve their image and were trying to finalize the deal with Western Europe for the natural gas pipeline.

On many occasions, the magazine reports, the Soviets are successful "in camouflaging the true calling of many of their disinformation agents." It notes that Gennady Gerasimov, a "political observer" for the Soviet press agency, Novosti, was interviewed on the ABC Nightline program on March 31 about President Reagan's disarmament proposal and on April 22 about the nuclear freeze movement.

However, according to Arkady Shevchenko, the highest ranking diplomat ever to defect to the U.S., Gerasimov is no mere "political observer." He is a KGB agent. "Gerasimov?" Shevchenko told *TV Guide*. "He is KGB for sure. I know Gerasimov."

Shevchenko criticized ABC for its failure to adequately identify Gerasimov. To introduce him as just a political observer, Shevchenko said, "does not create enough skepticism in the minds of Americans. If they could just be reminded that about half these people [who work for Novosti and TASS] are KGB, who give propaganda and disinformation."

But reflecting the mindset of many in the media, Nightline's executive producer Bill Lord was quoted by *TV Guide* as saying that all he knows about Gerasimov is that he works for Novosti, and that he is "quite engaging."